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10/000,035	12/04/2001	Tamio Kawai	011634	9309

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EXAMINER

KRISCIUNAS, LINDA MARY

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3623

DATE MAILED: 01/09/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/000,035

Applicant(s)

KAWAI ET AL.

Examiner

Linda Krisciunas

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 December 2001.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 04 December 2001 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12/4/01.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____.

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Specification

1. Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

Claim Objections

2. Claim 3 is objected to because of the following informalities: Misspelled word in line 12: "planed" should be "planned". Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

The term "quick" in claim 9 is a relative term that renders the claim indefinite.

The term "quick" is not defined by the claim, the specification does not provide a standard for ascertaining the requisite degree, and one of ordinary skill in the art would not be reasonably apprised of the scope of the invention.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

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4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Frisco et al (US 2003/0061330).

As per claim 1, Frisco teaches an itemized schedule storage means for storing schedules each associated with each of a plurality of work items to realize the working scheme (See Figure 2A which lists the activities associated with the project with respect to order of priority or schedule), an individual schedule storage means for storing an individual schedule associated with the itemized schedules (See Figure 16C which displays activity schedules for individual people), an executed work report storage means for storing executed work reports each in connection with the individual schedules (paragraph 81: "The system offers configurable web-based reporting whereby each organization can customize the method, format and delivery timetable for project status reporting. Incorporated into this feature is the ability for organizations to use their global project attributes as sort and filter criteria for these reports. This feature also gives organizations the ability to download all project information into their own project database for extended, integrated, and customized project management applications.", a progress chart generating means for displaying a progress chart of the

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working scheme based on the itemized schedules and the executed work reports (See Figure 20 which displays a progress chart for each project), an output means for outputting the progress chart generated by the progress chart generating means to display the progress chart according to a confirmation instruction for confirming a progress state of the working scheme (See Figure 8 which displays a progress chart output for projects), and a modification means for modifying at least one of the itemized schedules and the individual schedules according to a modification instruction based on the displayed progress chart (paragraph 67: "Authorized users may revisit any project to change and recalculate planned completion dates during the life of that project." Whereby modifications can be made to the project.).

As per claim 2, Frisco teaches an individual progress chart generating means for generating a chart based on the individual schedules and the executed work reports according to an individual confirmation instruction for confirming an individual progress state of the work items, and the output means outputs the individual progress chart to display the individual progress chart (See Figures 14-20 which displays MYACTIVITIES and MY PROJECTS output reports. See also paragraph 240: "There are two types of MY VIEWS: MY PROJECTS and MY ACTIVITIES. MY PROJECTS, shown in FIGS. 14, 14A, 14B, 14C gives users the ability to view only those projects where the user is the Project Contact. This gives users the ability to view and manage just their projects and related activities versus projects and related activities for their entire company. Users can view projects and related activities for MY PROJECTS in order by project name/activity sequence or they can view project

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activities across all projects for MY PROJECTS in order by planned completion date or by activity name/planned completion date. All of the MY PROJECTS views have a "Quick Update" function, which allow users to view and quickly update all activities for their projects without having to open each individual activity.").

As per claim 3, Frisco teaches a report storage means for storing a report in connection with one of the individual schedules which can not be executed as planned so as to provide the report to the staffs with regard to reasons and problems of the individual schedule (See paragraph 29: "Changed Activities/Projects" are noted in the newsletter which is deemed equivalent to a report since it performs the same function in substantially the same manner with substantially the same results.), and the individual progress chart generating means generates the individual progress chart as a chart including a display area for displaying the report associated with the individual schedule (See Figures 14-20 which displays MYACTIVITIES and MY PROJECTS output reports. See also paragraph 240: "There are two types of MY VIEWS: MY PROJECTS and MY ACTIVITIES. MY PROJECTS, shown in FIGS. 14, 14A, 14B, 14C gives users the ability to view only those projects where the user is the Project Contact. This gives users the ability to view and manage just their projects and related activities versus projects and related activities for their entire company. Users can view projects and related activities for MY PROJECTS in order by project name/activity sequence or they can view project activities across all projects for MY PROJECTS in order by planned completion date or by activity name/planned completion date. All of the MY PROJECTS views have a "Quick Update" function, which allow users to view and

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quickly update all activities for their projects without having to open each individual activity.”).

As per claim 4, Frisco teaches the individual schedule comprises an accidental task data associated with a task not preliminarily included in the work schedule (paragraph 67: “Authorized users may revisit any project to change and recalculate planned completion dates during the life of that project.” Whereby the changes made are equivalent to an accidental task as they represent an identical function and are performed in substantially the same manner with substantially the same results.), and the unit further comprises a re-scheduling means that modifies the individual schedule according to the accidental task data, wherein the individual progress chart generating means generates the individual progress chart as a chart having an accidental task display area for displaying the accidental task data of the individual schedule (paragraph 29: “Changed Activities/Projects” are noted in the newsletter which is deemed equivalent to a report since it performs the same function in substantially the same manner with substantially the same results.).

As per claim 5, Frisco teaches a display unit that can be seen simultaneously by all the staffs so that the staffs can review the working scheme based on information indicated on the display unit (paragraph 209: “Shared project activity (which is viewable)” whereby the viewable items can be viewed by all users of the system), wherein the indicated information is based on an output from the output means of the reviewing and managing unit (paragraph 239: “The system has several views that allow users to view both projects and project activities. Users may select a variety of “MY

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VIEWS", which show users only their projects or project activities assigned to them or "COMPANY VIEWS", which show all company projects or project activities for a given organization." Whereby the view represent the output of the system.).

As per claims 6-7, Frisco teaches an intelligent terminal provided for the staff that is connected to the reviewing and managing unit through the network, wherein each of the units can display information based on an output from the output means of the reviewing and managing unit (paragraph 39: "At any time during project, project activities may be assigned to a third party service provider, though responsibility typically remains with the responsible organization for all project activities (customer or vendor). Several features of the present invention facilitate collaboration and management with third parties. Third party system users are automatically included for notification regarding their respective assigned project activities. Accordingly, they receive email notifications containing secured, direct links back into their assigned project activities. Critical documents such as product specifications and purchase orders can therefore be shared with third party users as activity file attachments. In addition, the system provides views of all outsourced project activities listed by name of third party for ease of management. Third party users can also access the system and view all project activities assigned to them from all participating organization, in order, by due date, along with all related file attachments." Whereby an inherent feature of the system to allow a third party to view the output information would be some sort of terminal device. Additionally, they would have to be connected to through a network to access the information from the system.).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 8-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Frisco in view of Borg et al (US 5,835,898).

As per claim 8, Frisco does not explicitly teach an input terminal. Borg teaches that it is well known and expected in the art to have an intelligent terminal that has an input means, wherein the unit and the reviewing and managing unit can transmit information to each other (column 5, lines 34-36: "visual schedule management system can be installed on a network server running a network operating system, such as Artisoft LANtastic.RTM or Novell Netware.RTM., and accessed by workstations connected to the network."). Borg is an analogous art as it also teaches about a project management system. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the project management system of Frisco with the input terminal feature of Borg to provide a more user-friendly means of use of the system.

As per claim 9, Frisco does not explicitly teach coupling connectors for the units. Borg teaches that it is well known and expected in the art to have intelligent units and reviewing and managing units that are portable and connected to the network with quick

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coupling-type connectors (column 5, lines 34-36: "visual schedule management system can be installed on a network server running a network operating system, such as Artisoft LANtastic.RTM or Novell Netware.RTM., and accessed by workstations connected to the network." Whereby the portability aspect is inherent in a computer itself as it can be moved from one location to another. Connections to the network are inherently user-friendly to allow for movement of the equipment.). Borg is an analogous art as it also teaches about a project management system. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the project management system of Frisco with the portable and connector feature of Borg to provide a more user-friendly means of use of the system, including portability.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The following art also teaches about project management systems: Nummelin et al (US 6,308,164), Tuli (US 6,256,651), Beaven et al (US 2004/0186762), Kumashiro (US 6,282,514), "How to Manage Projects" by George Pitagorsky, CMA, Dec 1996/Jan 1997, vol 70, issue 10, pg 15; "Microsoft Project 3.0" by Mike Heck, MacWorld, Jan 1993, vol 10, issue 1, pg 181; "Computimes (Malaysia): Project 2000 with plenty of features" by Edzlyzam, Computimes Malaysia, August 10, 2000; and "Managing by Projects" by Cynthia Lerouge, Strategic Finance, November 1999.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Linda Krisciunas whose telephone number is 571-272-6931. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 6:30 am to 3:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tariq Hafiz can be reached on 571-272-6729. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

LMK

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Jan 3, 2006


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